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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

(122)

PAGE 01 SAN SA 00622 310642Z 1482 SAN SA 00622 310642Z
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 CC-15 FCA-11
ACDA-12 IO-14 DOT-02 /102 W
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R 291600Z JAN 82
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9551
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 0622

E.O. 12065: GDS 1/29/86 (DEVINE, FRANK J) OR-M
TAGS: PINS PINT SHUM ES
SUBJ: (U) ARCHBISHOP GIVES HIS ANALYSIS OF JAN 22 INCIDENTS

1. (U) IN HOMILY JAN 27, ARCHBISHOP ROMERO CONDEMNED JAN 22 INCIDENTS IN CONNECTION WITH LEFTIST MASS DEMONSTRATION AS "IRRATIONAL MASSACRE". HE SAID THAT AFTER INVESTIGATION AND DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN NEWSMEN HE HAD COME TO FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS CONCERNING INCIDENTS:
A. DEMONSTRATION WAS PROCEDING IN PEACEFUL AND ORDERLY FASHION.
B. POISON CHEMICALS WERE SPRAYED ON DEMONSTRATORS BY AIRPLANE, BUT EFFECTS WERE NOT TOO SERIOUS.
C. NATIONAL GUARD INSIDE NATIONAL PALACE ACTED PROVOCATIVELY AND WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR SHOOTING.
D. SOME DEMONSTATORS DID PRODUCE WEAPONS AND ACT IN DEFENSE OF THEIR COMRADES.
E. THERE WERE 21 DEAD AND 128 WOUNDED IN INCIDENTS.
F. THERE WAS SOME BURNING AND LOOTING IN CONNECTION WITH INCIDENTS, BUT MAJORITY OF DEMONSTRATORS TOOK REFUGE IN CATHEDRAL AND CHRUCHES AND IN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY.
F. UNIVERSITY WAS ENCIRCLED BY SECURITY FORCES AND THERE WAS FREQUENT FIRING INTO THE UNIVERSITY GIVING RISE TO FEAR UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY WOULD AGAIN BE VIOLATED.
G. ALL RADIO STATIONS WERE PLACED IN THE "NATIONAL CHAIN" FOR 48 HOURS SO THAT ONLY OFFICIAL VERSION OF EVENTS COULD BE BROADCAST.
H. IN PRESS AND ON TELEVISION ONLY PICTURES OF ARMED DEMONSTRATORS HAVE APPEARED, NONE OF SECURITY FORCES.

2. (U) EXPRESSING HIS "PASTORAL JUDGMENT" OF INCIDENTS, ARCHBISHOP SAID HE HOPED THAT VICTIMS WOULD NOT HAVE SUFFERED IN VAIN, AND CALLED FOR "AUDACIOUS AND URGENT STRUCTURAL REFORMS". HE CONDEMNED "INTRANSIGENT VIOLENCE" OF THE RIGHT WHICH HE CLAIMED ANGERED THE PEOPLE AND EVOKED REACTION INCLUDING THE SPREAD OF COMMUNISM WHICH THE RIGHT IS "HYPOCRITICALLY" DENOUNCING. HE CALLED UPON THE ARMED FORCE TO DEFEND THE PEOPLE, NOT JUST THE PRIVILEGED FEW, AND TO REPRESS THE RIGHT (WHOSE VIOLENCE IS "MORE CRIMINAL" THAN THAT OF THE LEFT) WITH THE SAME "FURY" WITH WHICH IT ACTS AGAINST THE LEFT.

3. (U) HE FURTHER URGENTLY CALLED UPON REVOLTUIONARY GOVERNING JUNTA TO CEASE REPRESSION AND TO SHOW IT HAS CAPACITY TO CONTROL THE SECURITY FORCES WHICH HE CRITICIZED AS FORMING "PARALLEL GOVERNMENT". HE WARNED THAT EACH DAY THERE IS NEW WEAKENING OF LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT AND MORE REPRESSION OF THE PEOPLE. FINALLY HE ASKED THE JUNTA TO INVESTIGATE EFFECTIVELY INCIDENTS OF JAN 22 AND TO PUNISH THE GUILTY, AS WELL AS TO INDEMNIFY FAMILIES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND DISAPPEARED PERSONS OF BOTH PRESENT AND PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS.

4. (U) ARCHBISHOP CITIED APPROVINGLY "MODERATION AND SENSIBILITY" DISPLAYED BY LEFTIST POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS IN JAN 22 DEMONSTATION AS BEING MORE EFFECTIVE THAN VIOLENCE, WHICH HE CONDEMNED AS SIGN OF "WEAKNESS". HE DEFINED GENUINE REVOLUTION AS CREATING STRUCTURAL CHANGES FOR GOOD OF PEOPLE AND COUNTRY. AS CUSTOMARY, HOWEVER, ARCHBISHOP ALSO CONDEMNED VIOLENCE OF LEFT AND AGAIN SPECIFICALLY PLEADED FOR RELEASE OF KIDNAP VICTIMS.

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